

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

OIC-02 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07

USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 EPG-02 L-03 H-01 OMB-01

PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /122 W

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R 171400Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4655

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC, EAGR, OCON, AORG

SUBJ: UN/FAO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM: 3RD SESSION CFA

FODAG

1. THE 3RD CFA OPENED ONE AND A HALF HOURS LATE ON A SISCOR-DANT NOTE CAUSED BY G-77 (READ BRILLO AND AFRICA GROUP) REFUSAL TO ACCEPT TRADITIONAL ROTATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. COMPROMISE FINALLY REACHED AFTER G-77 WON RELUCTANT DEVELOPED COUNTRY AGREEMENT TO SHIFT SUPPORT FROM IRELAND TO SWEDEN (GRANQVISIT). GAMO-KUBA (CONGO) IS FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN. THE ISSUE OF SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN REMAINS TO BE SETTLED. G-77 ALSO IS INSISTING ON NEW POLICY OF REGIONAL ROTATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP. THIS LATTER ISSUE WILL BE DISCUSSED INFORMALLY DURING COURSE OF MEETING. THIS LATTER ISSUE WILL BE DISCUSSED INFORMALLY DURING COURSE OF MEETING. WE DO NOT FIND ANY MERIT IN THE IDEA OF REGIONAL ROTATION AND WILL NOT AGREE TO THE IDEA UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE.

2. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBINSON REGISTERED CONCERN OVER FAILURE TO MEET "MINIMUM" TARGET OF 10 MILLION TONS OF GRAINS IN FOOD AID. HE INDICATED THAT DESPITE

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FAVORABLE CROP SITUATION IN SEVERAL TRADITIONAL FOOD RECIPIENT COUNTRIES, CEREAL REQUIREMENTS OF MOST MSA'S ARE HIGHER NOW THAN LAST YEAR. ROBINSON CALLED FOR ADDITIONAL PLEDGES TO INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY RESERVES (ABOVE SWEDEN, NORWAY, FRG AND EEC). HE ALSO CALLED FOR DONORS TO QUICKLY COME FORWARD TO HELP OUT 1977/78 TARGET OF \$750 MILLION. ONLY \$578 MILLION NOW PLEDGED. ROBINSON REFERRED TO 1979/80 PLEDGE AS ENTIRELY REASONABLE, AND

SAID MORE FAVORABLE GRAIN SITUATION IN DONOR COUNTRIES SHOULD FACILITATE ATTAINMENT HIGHER TARGET. THIS ALSO WOULD ALLOW PROGRAM TO BEGIN TO SUPPLY COMMODITIES TO NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY SCHEMES.

3. TWENTY-SEVEN COUNTRIES HAVE PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM ON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL STATEMENT. MOST HAVE SUPPORTED WFP PROPOSAL TO BEGIN SUPPLYING FOOD SECURITY SCHEMES. UK AND NETHERLANDS HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ALTHOUGH THEY URGED DEFERRAL UNTIL ADEQUATE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PROGRAM. SWEDEN POINTED OUT FOOD AID HAS ITS LIMITATIONS AND URGED WFP TO PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON EMERGENCIES, IT ALSO SUGGESTED A DETAILED STUDY ON HOW FOOD AID CAN CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD FOOD SECURITY. IT SUGGESTED WFP DEFINE ITS CRITERIA FOR PROJECT APPROVAL MORE PRECISELY AND SUGGESTED WFP MIGHT WISH TO DEFINE ITS OBJECTIVES SIMILARLY TO THOSE NOW BEING CONSIDERED FOR IFAD. SEVERAL OF AFRICAN GROUP CITED SPECIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES AND URGED GREATER WFP ATTENTION TO THEIR SPECIAL PROBLEMS. A NUMBER OF LDC'S URGED WFP TO ASSUME GREATER PROPORTION OF FINANCIAL COSTS OF IMPLEMENTATION, AND PAKISTAN SUGGESTED AN EXPANDED PROGRAM OF COMMODITY SALES TO ALLOW INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND ALTERNATIVE WAY TO RAISE COUNTERPART FUNDS.

4. INFORMAL SOUNDINGS INDICATE SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRY SUPPORT FOR DEFERRAL OF PLEDGE TARGET DECISION UNTIL FALL, AND LITTLE INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING IN PLENARY SPECIFICS OF NEW DRAFT GENERAL REGULATIONS. ON THIS LATTER POINT WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT LDC'S WHICH PARTICIPATED IN FEBRUARY WORKING GROUP ALSO WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEFLECT EFFORTS TO REOPEN DRAFT PROPOSAL.

5. DRAFTING COMMITTEE INCLUDES UNITED STATES, BRAZIL, ETHIOPIA, DENMARK, FRANCE, JAPAN, PAKISTAN AND TURKEY.

6. US STATEMENT ON ITEM 4 IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE WE ARE PLEASED TO JOIN WITH OUR MANY COLLEAGUES IN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE SECRETARIAT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR A SUCCINCT DOCUMENT WHICH CONTAINS, APPROPRIATELY, CONSIDERABLE FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

WE BELIEVE THIS DOCUMENT TOUCHES ON A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT ITEMS THAT REQUIRE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE SECRETARIAT AND MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE. AS YOU KNOW THE UNITED STATES HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM SINCE ITS VERY INCEPTION. WE HAVE WATCHED IT GROW AND PROSPER. WE TAKE PARTICULAR PRIDE IN THIS PROGRAM AND THE VERY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IT HAS MADE IN ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

IN ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF ITS WORK, WE FEEL WFP IS ACHIEVING CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. THAT DOES NOT MEAN HOWEVER THAT WE DO

NOT HAVE SOME IDEAS AS TO HOW WFP CAN ACHIEVE MORE. NEITHER DOES IT MEAN THAT WE DO NOT HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT PROPOSALS BEING MADE FOR WFP'S FUTURE. WE DO HAVE SUGGESTIONS AND WE DO HAVE ONE OR TWO QUESTIONS THAT WE SHALL BE MENTIONING AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

THE UNITED STATES IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO 125,000 TONS OF FOOD AID TOWARD THE 500,000 TON INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY RESERVE CALLED FOR BY THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALONG WITH OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE. WHILE WE FEEL THE 500,000 TON INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY RESERVE CAN, IN THE SHORT RUN, MEET AN IMPORTANT FOOD AID NEED, WE DO NOT VIEW IT AS A PERMANENT FEATURE. WE PLACE PARAMOUNT EMPHASIS ON THE SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF NATIONALLY HELD GRAIN RESERVES. THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION IN 1975 MADE CLEAR, AND WE CONTINUE TO AGREE NOW, THAT ONLY AN INTERNATIONAL RESERVE SYSTEM CAN PROVIDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRUE WORLD FOOD SECURITY.

IN THAT CONNECTION WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROGRAM'S PROPOSAL TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY SCHEMES. AGAIN WE WOULD STRESS THAT WHAT WE SEEK IS A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO THE FOOD SECURITY QUESTION. WE FEEL THAT ANY DECISION TO BEGIN THIS KIND OF MAJOR ACTIVITY REQUIRES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE SECRETARIAT AND THE COMMITTEE. SUCH QUESTIONS COME TO MIND AS:
--WHETHER ADEQUATE RESOURCES ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO WFP TO

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10
OIC-02 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07
USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 EPG-02 L-03 H-01 OMB-01
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UNDERTAKE SUPPLY OF FOOD SECURITY SCHEMES;

--WOULD THE COMMITMENTS BE ONE-TIME SUPPLY EFFORTS OR WOULD THE PROGRAM BE INCURRING A LONG-TERM CALL ON RESOURCES THAT WOULD ADD UP CONSIDERABLY OVER TIME;

--HOW MANY SUCH SCHEMES WOULD EVENTUALLY REQUEST WFP ASSISTANCE AND HOW WOULD THE DECISION TO SUPPLY WFP FOOD COMMODITIES FOR STOCKPILES EFFECT WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE ITS PRIORITY ACTIVITIES- NUTRITIONAL FEEDING PROGRAMS, FOOD FOR WORK, AND SUPPLIES FOR EMERGENCIES;

--IS WFP'S GRANT FOOD AID THE MOST APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE DONOR COUNTRIES CAN GIVE FOR THE IMPORTANT WORK IN PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY? AS WE READ IT, THESE ARE NOT WFP PROJECTS BUT RATHER A WFP CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER ACTIVITIES. WFP ALONE WILL NOT BE PROVIDING THE BULK OF THE SUPPLIES. BILATERAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND A MAJOR EFFORT BY THE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THE RESERVES SUCCEED. THEREFORE IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR THE WFP TO TAKE LEAD?

--FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOW WOULD WFP'S ACTIVITY IN INDIVIDUAL FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS EFFECT EFFORTS TO GET GOING AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF NATIONALLY HELD RESERVES? THIS LIST IS BY NO MEANS COMPREHENSIVE, BUT IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE KINDS OF QUESTIONS WE FEEL THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD ADDRESS BEFORE IT GIVES ITS APPROVAL TO SUCH AN IMPORTANT NEW ACTIVITY.

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE SECRETARIAT'S REPORT ON THIS WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR THE 4TH CFA.

IN PARA 23, WE APPLAUD THE EFFORTS TO CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND THE IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A REDUCTION IN THE USE OF THE QUICK-ACTION PROCEDURE. WHERE QAP PROJECTS ARE USED, WE HOPE THEY WILL SET THE STAGE FOR SUBSEQUENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

PARAS 30-32 DISCUSS THE PROGRAM'S EFFORTS TO FOCUS ON THE POOREST LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. WE THINK THIS TARGET GROUP DESERVES THE PROGRAM'S HIGHEST PRIORITY. WE REALIZE THERE WILL BE OTHER SITUATIONS IN WHICH THERE WILL TEMPORARILY BE OTHER DISADVANTAGED GROUPS WHO MERIT SPECIAL WFP ATTENTION. BUT IN MOST CASES THESE GROUPS ARE ABLE IN TIME TO SATISFACTORILY ADJUST TO THE NEW ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL REALITIES, WITH THE POOREST, LEAST DEVELOPED GROUPS, HOWEVER, WFP CAN PLAY A SPECIAL ROLE. AS OUR SWEDISH COLLEAGUE POINTED OUT FOOD AID IS AN UNIQUE DEVELOPMENT TOOL ESPECIALLY SUITED FOR SOME PURPOSES WHERE OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE MAY NOT BE AS EFFECTIVE.

FOOD AID IS NOW, HOWEVER, THE CURE FOR ALL PROBLEMS. WHILE WE ARE HERE TO DISCUSS FOOD AID SPECIFICALLY, WE MUST

NOT FORGET THAT IT IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL TOOLS IN OUR DEVELOPMENT WORK. THE U.S. LOOKS AT DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF AGENCIES INCLUDING UNDP, THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND WORLD BANK. FOR 1978, THE U.S. IS SEEKING TO MAKE SIZEABLE INCREASES IN MOST OF OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. WFP IS OF A SIZE AND ITS LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE OF SUCH IMPORTANCE, THAT NOW IS THE TIME FOR WFP TO UNDERTAKE A DETAILED STUDY WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES SUCH AS UNDP, FAO, AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO RE-EXAMINE AND REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE HOW WFP FOOD AID RESOURCES CAN BEST BE USED TO COMPLEMENT LDC'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.

FINALLY, WE APPLAUD THE EMERGENCY FOOD AID COORDINATING ROLE WFP IS UNDERTAKING IN ANGOLA, CHAD, CAPE VERDE AND LEBANON, AND WE HOPE IT WILL EXPAND THIS ROLE IN OTHER APPROPRIATE SITUATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE FEEL WFP CAN ALSO PLAY A SPECIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROLE, AS IT NOW IS IN BANGLADESH, IN HELPING DONORS TO KEEP ABREAST OF REGULAR FOOD AID DEVELOPMENTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE A VARIETY OF FOOD AID PROGRAMS ARE OPERATING. END OF QUOTE GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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